

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

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PHILLIPS: Federal officials revealed today that 50-year-old Carl Koecher worked for the CIA for a total of four years, first as a translator in Washington, D.C., later as a contract employee in New York. Koecher appeared in federal court this afternoon, charged with passing to the Czechoslovakian Intelligence Service, or CIS, virtually all of the sensitive defense information and CIA personnel identifications he could obtain, including one four-page document marked 'top secret.' RUDOLF GIULIANI (U.S. attorney): He Xeroxed that document and folded it up into a cigarette box and passed it to another person. That person, in turn, made a pass of it to a CIS agent.

PHILLIPS: Also in custody as a witness is Koecher's wife, *Anna, described in court papers as the courier who delivered to Czech agents many of the documents her husband allegedly stole. GIULIANI: Anna Koecher participated in meetings in New York City, Vienna and in Czechoslovakia with CIS agents and with her husband, in which they discussed penetration of United States intelligence agencies.

PHILLIPS: The Koechers claim they've been dealing not in state secrets, but wholesale jewelry to their Manhattan business. And their lawyer says the couple feels the espionage charges are ridiculous. JOSEHP CALLUORI (defense attorney): The mood of my client, Mr. Koecher, is that this is cold war hysteria.

PHILLIPS: Under FBI surveillance for more than two years, the Koechers lived in a posh New York apartment building. After being confronted by FBI agents last week, the Koechers sold their apartment Monday and were arrested just hours before boarding a flight to Switzerland. Although the FBI says Koecher signed a confession last Friday, his lawyer says he will plead 'not guilty.' A bail hearing is scheduled for tomorrow and the government says it will ask that both Koecher and his wife be held without bail, for fear they may try to leave the country. Stone Phillips, ABC News, New York. <